

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please enter into the drawing the Replacement Sheet including changes to Figs. 1 and 2, and New Sheets including new Figs. 3a and 9.

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REMARKS

The Office action of March 6, 2007, has been carefully considered.

Objection has been raised to the drawings on the basis that the flexible material of Claim 5 and the ultrasound welding machine of Claim 10 are not shown in the drawings.

A new Figure 3a has now been added to the application to show an ultrasound welding machine and a new Figure 9 has been added to the application to show a flexible mesh. Both the ultrasound welding machine and the flexible mesh are properly described in the specification, and the drawings contain no new matter. In addition to the drawings, the specification has been amended to add a brief description of both drawings and to insert numerals for the various elements shown.

In addition to the above new drawings, Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to note that these drawings show prior art.

The specification has been amended to correct the errors noted on page 3 of the Office action and to add proper subject matter headings and a reference to the PCT application.

Various objections to the claims are listed on pages 3 and 4 of the Office action, and the claims have now been entirely rewritten as new Claims 15 through 30.

Claims 2, 5, 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as indefinite on a number of grounds, and as noted, these claims have now been rewritten. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 8 through 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Loprire.

The invention is directed to a method for the electrically conductive connection of at least two wires provided with an insulating lacquer, comprising at least partially enclosing the wires in a region in which the wires are to be connected in an electrically conductive material,

and subjecting the region to ultrasound. This ultrasound causes the insulating lacquer of the wires to be broken away and a fixed connection to be caused between the wires and the material, simultaneously with an electrically conductive connection between the wires.

Loprire is directed to the ultrasonic welding of wires through their insulation jacket. However, insulation jacket is a meltable material such as a thermoplastic, preferably PVC or polyester, as disclosed in paragraphs [0012] and [0030]. To connect these wires with each other or with a terminal, the jacket needs to be melted.

Hence, the wires must be surrounded by a meltable insulation to perform an electrically conductive connection with a terminal or other wires.

Moreover, it is noted that while the Office action alleges that terminal 22 encloses the wires partially, Applicant points out that the conductors rest on a planar terminal, so that it cannot be referred to as enclosing the wires.

The invention is directed to connection of wires coated with an insulating lacquer, which is known not to be a thermoplastic. According to the state of the art, such wires are connected with each other by inserting the wires into a sleeve and the sleeve is pressed together. Because the sleeve includes scratches that notch into the lacquer, the lacquer splits open. However, as noted in the specification, this method does not insure an electrical contact to the desired extent, and Applicant has solved this problem by subjecting the wires in a sleeve to ultrasound.

Thus, Loprire does not teach a method for the electrically conductive connection of at least two wires provided with an *insulating lacquer*, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Bennett et al in view of Loprire. The Bennett et al discloses a welding method where a continuous metallic penetrator having sharp edges or burrs, such as a brass screen, is interwoven around at least two bonded insulation coated conductive members and the assembly is placed in a conductive connector having chamfered holes. The assembly is then welded under heat and pressure.

According to the invention, such a penetrator is not necessary and welding under heat and pressure is not used.

The combination of Bennett et al with Loprire does not result in a teaching in which the lacquer breaks up when ultrasound waves act on the lacquered wires. According to Loprire, the conductors are placed on a planar terminal, while according to Bennett et al, each conductor needs to be wrapped by a penetrator. Neither of the references discloses or suggests *wrapping all of the wires together in a conductive sleeve and subjecting such a sleeve to ultrasonic waves*.

Moreover, it would not be possible for one of ordinary skill in the art to reasonably combine the teachings of Bennett et al and Loprire, since Bennett et al specifically relies on heat and pressure welding utilizing conductive properties of the wires, whereas Loprire uses only ultrasonic treatment. There is no indication that substitution of ultrasonic welding for heat and pressure welding in the Bennett et al method would result in a successful welding operation.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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